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11/28/00
DSIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 Applicant: Ernst F. Schröder
Filed: Herewith
For: VOICE CONTROL SYSTEM WITH A MICROPHONE
ARRAY

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of fees,
please enter the following Preliminary Amendment and the
accompanying remarks.

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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

25 1. (Amended) Voice control system with a
microphone array comprising a plurality of microphones
for converting voice commands into electrical signals,
and with a central speech recognition unit for converting
these electrical signals into operational commands,
[characterized in that] wherein the microphones are
30 distributed between different appliances which are
connected to one another in such a way that the signals
generated by the microphones can be transmitted to the
central speech recognition unit.

35 2. (Amended) System according to Claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the appliances are
connected via a bidirectional network.

40 3. (Amended) System according to Claim 2,
[characterized in that] wherein the bidirectional network
is based on an IEEE 1394 bus.